

CLAIMS

1. A method for efficiently exploiting an upstream channel bandwidth of full-duplex connection between a user and network comprising:
 - a) receiving data from said network by at least one user;
 - b) storing said data on said user's storage device for a predetermined period of time for further use; and
 - c) re-transmitting said received data to other users.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the re-transmission of said received data to said users is carried out during download time.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the re-transmission of said received data to said users is carried out after downloading is completed.
4. A method according to claim 1, comprising:
 - a) receiving said data by said user;
 - b) storing said received data on said user's computer system; and
 - c) re-transmitting said data from the user's location to said users through said upstream channel bandwidth in response to a request or according to pre-defined operation instructions.
5. A method according to claim 1, comprising:
 - a) receiving data on said user's computer system;
 - b) causing said received data to be re-transmitted through said upstream channel bandwidth from said user to a first group of one or more other users;
 - c) causing said received data to be re-transmitted through said upstream channel bandwidth from said first group of users to a further group of one or more other users; and
 - d) repeating step (c) for all said users requesting the same said data.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said data is transmitted to said user from a plurality of other users.
7. A method according to claim 5, wherein the transmission of data from a user to one or more other user(s) is carried out with delay.
8. A method according to claim 1, comprising:
 - a) receiving data on said user's computer system;
 - b) re-transmitting said received data through said upstream channel bandwidth to a dedicated server for storage; and
 - c) retrieving said stored data from said dedicated server for other purposes.
9. A system for managing data flow in a data network, comprising:
 - a) a coordination center for tracking data entities distributed over said data network;
 - b) a plurality of users having computer means connected to said data network via a full-duplex connection, said computer means comprising or being coupled to memory means; and
 - c) software and/or hardware means for re-transmitting data from the computer of each user via the upstream channel of ~~his~~ full duplex connection to other users connected to said network.
User
10. A system according to claim 9, wherein the coordination center comprises storage means and software/hardware component for storing information related to the data passed through the network and for data retrieval.
11. A system according to claim 9, wherein the users are provided with software/hardware components, suitable to re-transmit the data received in said user's computer to the other users on the network

according to instructions from the coordination center or according to pre-defined operation instructions.

12. A system according to claim 9, wherein the users are provided with software/hardware components suitable to send information to the coordination center representative of the upstream bandwidth available, and of the contents stored in the memory means associated with the user's computer, that are available for retransmission.
13. A method for efficiently exploiting an upstream channel bandwidth of full-duplex connection between a user and network, essentially as described and illustrated.